

4.0 EXISTING CONDITIONS AND RESOURCES

This section focuses on wildland fire issues and how they impact current conditions in Oneida County. Existing conditions were determined by: (1) Outcome and recommendations resulting from a planning meeting involving fire chiefs, emergency services personnel, U.S. Forest Service and BLM, (2) Assessing fuel loads using Wildland Fire Hazard Assessment and Community Assessment standard forms (Tables 9-14) within subdivisions considered a risk and photographing these potential fire risks, and (3) identifying potential dry hydrant and drafting water sources and irrigation mainline access points.

Fire History and Frequency

Wildfire risk within and around Oneida County is generally high with most fires over 500 acres in size. The fire season is usually longer than other locations in eastern Idaho. Fire history data are shown in Figure 4 for years 1993 through 2003.

Mutual Aid Agreements

Currently the Oneida Fire District does not have mutual aid agreements with the U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management.

Parcels vs. Subdivisions

The County and State subdivision regulations cover dividing of lands within the county, but there are many pieces of land, or parcels that have homes on them that in some cases predate existing regulations. On May 12, 2003, Oneida County Board of Commissioners adopted the current Oneida County Development Code. The Code established a Planning and Zoning Commission and formulated the following policies:

- Provide protection to people and property in recognized hazardous areas.
- Provide for the respect and diversities of people in the implementation of community design.
- Protect existing farm operations.
- Assure provision of adequate on-site facilities in all new developments.
- Maintain the comprehensive plan with regular updates of background studies and amendments.
- Require participation in the National Flood Insurance Program.
- Cooperate with Malad City in managing areas of city impact earlier identified, and assist the city in adoption and administration of the county plan and development code.

Description of Assessment Areas

Oneida County assessment area includes the Oneida Fire District with fire stations at Malad City and Holbrook. The district is divided east and west (Figure 1).

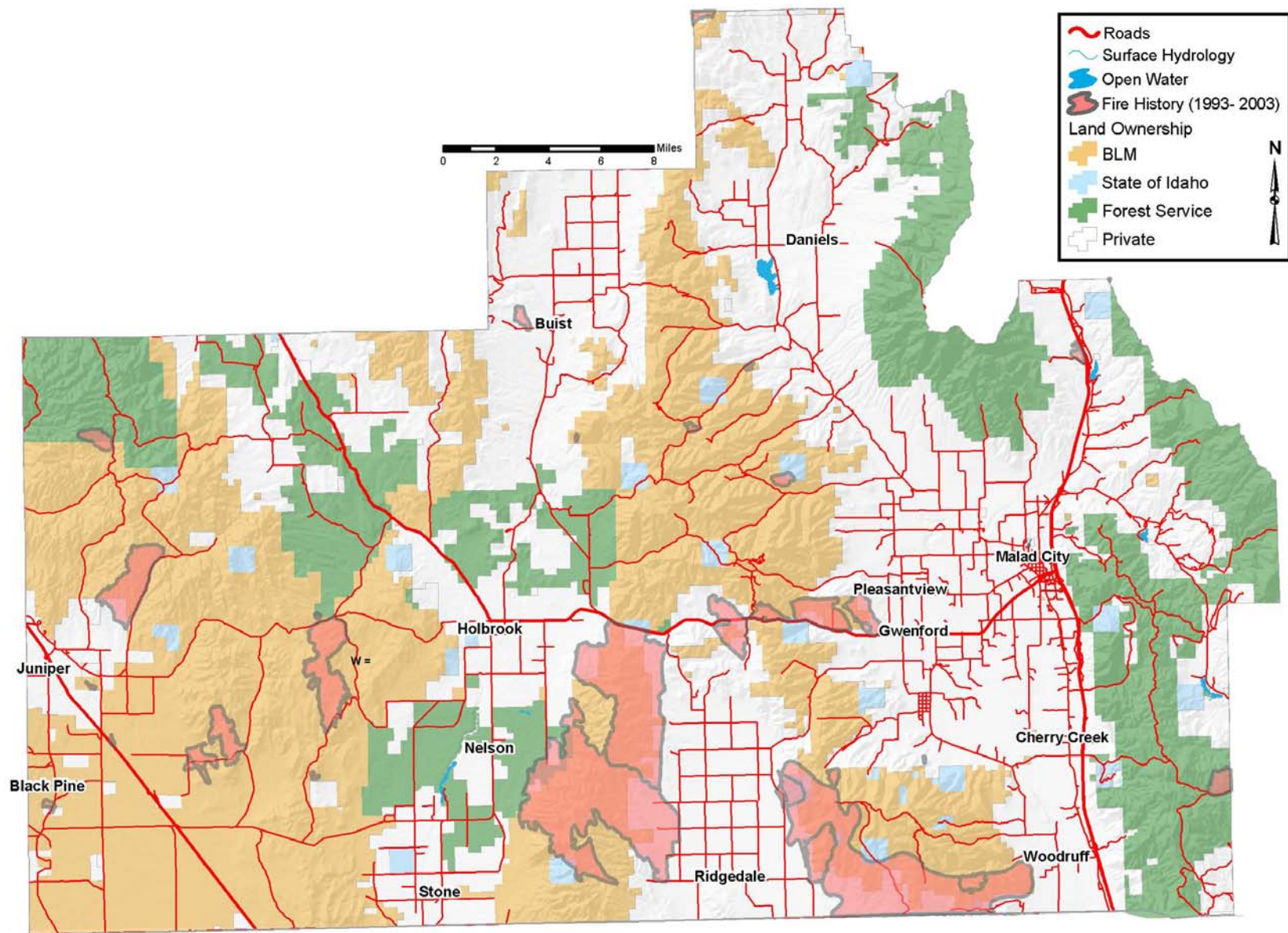


Figure 3. Historic fire perimeters within Oneida County.

Oneida Fire District Current Resources and Assets

Fire chiefs and emergency services personnel completed the following assessment forms showing an overview of each fire department. These forms provide accuracy and consistency in the evaluation process.

Malad City Fire Department

Table 7. Summary of the Malad City Fire Department Assessment.

Malad City Fire Department Assessment Overview – Resources and Assets	
Facilities	The fire station located in Malad is the only permanent fire facility for the east side of the Fire District. It houses district and city fire fighting apparatus.
Response Area	The fire district is comprised of agricultural lands (hay, grain, and safflower with several acres of dry land farming adjacent to federal lands. Figure 1 shows the fire district boundary which encompasses an estimated 88 square miles of response area including an estimated 25 miles of Interstate 15.
Budget and Funding	Funding for the Fire District is derived from 19% grants, 80% taxes, and 1% donations.
Grants	The Malad fire department has received grants from FEMA, BLM, and Idaho Department of Lands.
Records Management	Training records for volunteer fire fighters are maintained at Malad Fire Department and each volunteer is responsible for updating their training.
Hazardous Materials Program	The fire district does not have a Hazmat team. The State Regional Response Team has agreed to respond when requested by the fire district.
EMS Program	EMS services are separate from the fire district activities and are managed by a separate board of directors.
Training and Certification	Training records are managed through each individual volunteer fire fighter and may include only certification issued following the completion of a training class.
Communications	All emergency fire fighting vehicles have radio communication and all volunteers are issued a handheld radio and pager. Dispatch duties are handled through the Oneida County Sheriff and 911 Center. The fire district operates on its own VHF frequency and uses the Oneida County Search and Rescue frequency, as needed.
Prevention and Inspection	At present, there is no training for code enforcement due to the volunteer status of the department.
Public Education	Volunteer fire fighting personnel conduct annual visits to the Fire station for pre-school and grade school children to promote fire prevention and home fire safety.

Holbrook City Fire Department

Table 8. Summary of the Holbrook Fire Department Assessment.

Holbrook Fire Department Assessment Overview – Resources and Assets	
Facilities	The Holbrook Fire Department building is located in Holbrook. It is a two bay building that is co-shared with the ambulance crew. There is space for the heavy structure truck and three small brush trucks along with the ambulance. Also at this facility is a small, unmanned office which serves as a public meeting room as well as the office for the fire department.
Response Area	Holbrook Fire Department extends from the Utah/Idaho border on the south to the Power County line to the north, which is a 38 mile run. From the hills on the west of the valley east to the intersection with the Malad District at the top of the Holbrook divide on highway 37. The fire department is strictly on a volunteer basis.
Budget and Funding	For 2004, \$36,000 for whole Oneida Fire District. Funding for the Holbrook Fire Department mainly is through tax assessment and grants. Holbrook Fire Department's budget is handled by "Red" Monte Thomas, district chief of the Oneida Fire District (OFD). Funds are not allocated to the Holbrook/Stone district but repairs are paid for through the OFD.
Grants	No grants have been received for 2004.
Records Management	Monthly meeting records and fire response records are hand written and are kept by the secretary of the Holbrook Fire Department. Truck repair records are kept by the repair shops that do the work.
Hazardous Materials Program	Holbrook Fire Department does not have a hazmat response team. The responsibilities are taken care of by the EMS and State of Idaho Hazmat response teams.
EMS Program	EMS services are separate from this district and are handled by a separate board of directors.
Training and Certification	Due to the nature of the Holbrook Fire Department being an all volunteer organization there has not been any training or certification at this time.
Communications	Each volunteer fire fighter has a hand held radio; the district chief stated that each fire fighter would also receive a pager. The operating brush trucks have radios that are tuned into the hand held and also to the Oneida County Sheriff office dispatch who does the dispatching for this district.
Prevention and Inspection	At present, there is no training for code enforcement due to the volunteer status of the department.
Public Education	At present, there are no public education programs.

Fire Fighting Apparatus

The following equipment lists were provided by fire chiefs and emergency services personnel and includes only serviceable, fully equipped apparatus. Both fire department within the Oneida Fire District have the basic fire fighting equipment required for structure and wildland fires. At this time all active fire/emergency personnel have pager and/or radio communication to respond to an emergency call. VHF radios are in wildland fire vehicles to communicate with BLM and other government emergency responders. All fire personnel are on Fire Phones from the Oneida County Sheriff's dispatch. This phone is activated by dispatch and will continue to ring until it is answered. This is generally used when contact cannot be made by radio or pager.

Malad City Fire Department Equipment

2004 International 3,000 gallon pumper with 1,250 gpm/tanker with Dump Tank 3,000
1991 Dodge light wildland fire truck
1993 Dodge light structure/wildland truck
1980 Ford heavy structure truck
1978 Chevrolet 750 gallon pumper with 750 gpm
1,500 gallon folding drop tank

Holbrook Fire Department Equipment

1976 Dodge brush truck 200 gallon
1985 Dodge brush truck 250 gallon
1990 Chevrolet brush truck 150 gallon
1989 Dodge brush truck 250 gallon
1968 Chevrolet 550 gallon structure truck 750 gpm pump